

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 383

Designation under the Plenary Powers of a type species
in harmony with accustomed usage for the genus *Hymenocera*
Latreille, 1819 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda)

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 383

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August 1953)

Dr. L. B. HOLTHUIS (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Nether-
lands*) (12th August 1953)

OPINION 383

DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH ACCUSTOMED USAGE FOR THE GENUS "HYMENOCERA" LATREILLE, 1819 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA)

RULING :—(1) All selections of type species for the genus *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside under the Plenary Powers and under those Powers the nominal species *Hymenocera picta* Dana, 1852, is hereby designated to be the type species of the foregoing genus.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 924 and 925 respectively :—

- (a) *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1) above : *Hymenocera picta* Dana, 1852) ;
- (b) *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852 (gender : masculine) (type species, by selection by Hilgendorf (1879) : *Conchodytes tridacnae* Peters, 1852).

(3) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 388 :—*Nemato-phyllum* Bleeker, 1856 (a junior homonym of *Nemato-phyllum* Milne Edwards (H.) & Haime (J.), 1850, and a junior objective synonym of *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, as determined under the Plenary Powers under (1) above).

(4) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Nos. 617 to 619 respectively :—

- (a) *picta* Dana, 1852, as published in the combination *Hymenocera picta* (specific name of type species of *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819) ;

- (b) *tridacnae* Peters, 1852, as published in the combination *Conchodytes tridacnae* (specific name of type species of *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852) ;
- (c) *nipponensis* (emend. of *niponensis*) De Haan, 1844, as published in the combination *Hymenocera nipponensis*).

(5) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 257 :—*nipponensis* De Haan, 1844, as published in the combination *Hymenocera nipponensis* (an Invalid Original Spelling for *nipponensis*).

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 2nd February 1952 Dr. L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) submitted the following application to the Commission for the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating for the genus *Hymenocera* Latreille 1819 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) a type species in harmony with accustomed usage :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate a type species for the genus "Hymenocera" Latreille, 1819 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda) in harmony with current usage

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

The generic name *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, at present is generally used for an indo-west-Pacific genus of marine prawns belonging to the family GNATHOPHYLLIDAE. The genus at present is known to contain two species, *Hymenocera picta* Dana, 1852, and *H. elegans* Heller, 1861, which possibly even may be identical. These species are rather rare and I know of only 20 authors having employed the generic name *Hymenocera* for the present genus. The only other generic name ever proposed for it is *Nematophyllum* Bleeker, which was published in 1856 by Bleeker in a narrative of a trip in the Dutch East Indies (*Reis Minahassa Moluksch. Arch. 2 : 37*). The name *Nematophyllum*

has been overlooked by all subsequent authors and was even missed in Neave's *Nomenclator Zoologicus*. Bleeker's name *Nematophyllum* is not valid, since it is a junior homonym of *Nematophyllum* Milne Edwards & Haime, 1850 (*Brit. foss. Corals* (1) : lxxi). Neither in the original description of *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, nor in that of *Nematophyllum* Bleeker, 1856, was a nominal species mentioned.

2. The generic name *Hymenocera* has been consistently used for the genus discussed here, except on the single occasion when Bleeker employed the name *Nematophyllum* for it. Furthermore, there is not the least doubt that Latreille's description of *Hymenocera* was based on material of the genus for which this name is currently employed. Nevertheless, it would be necessary, under the strict application of the *Règles*, to use the name *Hymenocera* for an entirely different genus. During the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology held in Paris in 1948, it was decided that "where, prior to 1st January 1931, a generic name was published for a genus established . . . with no nominal species distinctly referred to it, the first nominal species to be subsequently so referred to it by the same or another author is to be deemed to have been an originally included species and that species automatically becomes the type species of the genus in question" (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 (7/9) : 160). Now the first nominal species ever placed in the genus *Hymenocera* Latreille, is as far as known to me, *Hymenocera nipponensis* De Haan, 1844, a species at present regarded as belonging in the genus *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852.

3. In 1844, there was published pl. 46 of W. de Haan's volume on the Crustacea of Ph. Fr. von Siebold's *Fauna japonica*. On this plate, the species shown in fig. 8 is stated to represent "*Hymenocera nipponensis* n.sp.". This name obviously is a mistake, as the species figured does not show the characters mentioned in Latreille's diagnosis of his genus *Hymenocera*. The text belonging to De Haan's plate 46 was published in 1849, and in this text De Haan corrected his error by giving the species the name *Pontonia nipponensis* (De Haan, 1849, *Fauna japon.*, Crust. (6) : 180). This, however, does not alter the fact that *Hymenocera nipponensis* De Haan is the first nominal species to be referred to the genus *Hymenocera* and thus, according to the *Règles*, is the type species of that genus.

4. Unless it is rectified by the Commission, De Haan's 1844 mistake would have very serious consequences, since under a strict application of the *Règles* in the present case the following changes would be necessary. First, the generic name *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, would have to be transferred from the genus for which it always has been used to the genus which at present is known as *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852. Second, a new name would be needed for the former genus. These changes would be highly undesirable since (1) the transfer of a name from one genus to another usually leads to serious nomenclatorial confusion, (2) the name *Hymenocera* was clearly intended by

Latreille, 1819, for the genus to which it is currently applied, (3) the original diagnosis of *Hymenocera* Latreille does not at all fit for the genus *Conchodytes* Peters, (4) apart from the obscure generic name *Nematophyllum* Bleeker, the only generic name ever used for Latreille's genus is *Hymenocera*, (5) apart from De Haan's 1844 mistake in using the generic name *Hymenocera* for *Conchodytes nipponensis* (De Haan), that generic name has never been employed for a species of the genus *Conchodytes*.

5. The following supplementary notes need to be added in connection with the present application :—

- (1) *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852. Hilgendorf, 1879 (*Mber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* 1878 : 835), when dealing with the type specimen of *Conchodytes tridacnae* Peters, stated : "Original-Exemplar der Art und Gattung". In my opinion, this is a valid selection of *Conchodytes tridacnae* as the type species of the genus *Conchodytes*, since the type specimen of a genus necessarily must belong to the type species of that genus. However, if this selection is not considered valid, then the same species remains the type of the genus as it is so selected later by Borradaile, 1898 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (7) 2 : 390).
- (2) *Hymenocera nipponensis* De Haan. On pl. 46 of De Haan's work the word *nipponensis* is used instead of *nipponensis*. This obviously is a printer's error, since everywhere else in De Haan's book (pp. 180, 240, erratum) the name is correctly spelt "*nipponensis*". Therefore the Commission is asked, when placing this trivial name on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, to employ the universally accepted emendation "*nipponensis*".

6. It is clear that the strict application of the *Règles* in the present case would lead to a great confusion, which could be prevented by the use of the Plenary Powers. The concrete proposals which I submit for consideration are therefore that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

- (1) use its Plenary Powers :—
 - (a) to set aside all selections of type species for the genus *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, made prior to the proposed decision ; and having done so
 - (b) to designate *Hymenocera picta* Dana, 1852, *U.S. Explor. Exped.* 13 : 593, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;
- (2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the following generic names :—
 - (a) *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, *Nouv. Dict. Hist. nat.* (ed. 2) 30 : 71 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species,

as proposed in (1) above to be designated under Plenary Powers : *Hymenocera picta* Dana, 1852) ;

(b) *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852, *Ber. Verh. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* 1852 : 588, 591 (gender of generic name : masculine) (type species, selected by Hilgendorf, 1879 (*Mber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* 1878 : 835) : *Conchodytes tridacnae* Peters, 1852, *Ber. Verh. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* 1852 : 594) ;

(3) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Nematophyllum* Bleeker, 1856 (*Reis Minahassa Moluksch. Arch.* 2 : 37) (type species, by present selection : *Hymenocera picta* Dana, 1852, *U.S. Explor. Exped.* 13 : 593), a junior homonym of *Nematophyllum* Milne Edwards & Haime, 1850, and an objective junior synonym of *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, as placed on the *Official List* under (2) (a) above ;

(4) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the following trivial names :—

(a) *picta* Dana, 1852, as published in the combination *Hymenocera picta* (trivial name of type species of *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819) ;

(b) *tridacnae* Peters, 1852, as published in the combination *Conchodytes tridacnae* (trivial name of type species of *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852) ;

(c) *nipponensis* (emend. of *niponensis*) De Haan, 1844 (*Fauna japon.*, Crust. (6/7) : pl. 46), as published in the combination *Hymenocera nipponensis*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Dr. Holthuis's application, the question of the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of varying the type species of the genus *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, in the interests of nomenclatorial stability was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 648.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printers on 13th May 1952 and was published on 29th August of that year in Part 11 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Holthuis, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 343—345).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 29th August 1952 (a) in Part 11 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Holthuis's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given also to certain general zoological serial publications.

5. Comments received in the present case : The issue of the Public Notices specified in paragraph 4 above elicited one letter of support. This was from Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (*Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona*). The communication so received is reproduced in the immediately following paragraph. No objection to the action proposed was received from any source.

6. Support received from Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona, Spain) : On 25th February 1953, Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (*Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona*) addressed a letter to the Commission notifying his support for the present and certain other applications submitted by Dr. Holthuis which had then recently been published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. The portion of Dr. Zariquiey's letter relating to the present case was as follows :—

He recibido Commission's References . . . Z.N.(S.) 648 (*Hymenocera*) propuestas por el Dr. L. B. Holthuis, estando en todo conforme con las proposiciones del citado Doctor.

III.—THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54)49 : On 5th April 1954, a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)49) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the name *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819,

as specified in Points (1) to (4) in paragraph 6 on pages 344 and 345 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*” [i.e. in the paragraph so numbered in the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

8. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period was due to close on 5th July 1954. This Period was, however, extended by the Secretary to 23rd July 1954, owing to the fact that it coincided with the time of year when zoologists are commonly absent from their headquarters either on field work or on holiday.

9. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)49 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period as extended to the date specified in paragraph 8 above, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)49 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following nineteen (19) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Bonnet ; Hering ; Vokes ; Riley ; Esaki ;
Dymond ; Boschma ; Lemche ; Hankó ; do Amaral ;
Bradley (J.C.) ; Pearson ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Hemming ;
Cabrera ; Stoll ; Jaczewski ; Mertens ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned ;*

None.

10. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 23rd July 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(54)49,

signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 9 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

11. Addition of a name to the "Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology": On 15th May 1955, Mr. Hemming, as Secretary, placed the following Minute on the Commission's File Z.N.(S.) 648 :—

Addition of the specific name "niponensis" De Haan, 1844, as published in the combination "Hymenocera niponensis", an Invalid Original Spelling for "nipponensis", to the "Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology"

MINUTE by FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.,
Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

The application Z.N.(S.) 648 in regard to the generic name *Hymenocera* Latreille, 1819, submitted by Dr. L. B. Holthuis, contained *inter alia* a proposal that the Commission should rule that the specific name *niponensis* De Haan, 1844, as published in the combination *Hymenocera niponensis* be emended to the spelling *nipponensis*. This proposal was published in 1952 and accordingly, as a proposal already in hand at the time of the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, is protected by a decision of that Congress from the more rigorous provisions relating to the emendation of names then adopted and falls to be dealt with under the provisions in the *Règles* previously in force (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 43, Decision 74). Accordingly, when dealing in Voting Paper V.P.(54)49 with this part of Dr. Holthuis's application, the Commission proceeded under the pre-Copenhagen regulations.

2. In its vote on the foregoing Voting Paper the Commission approved the adoption of the emendation to *nipponensis* of the name published as *niponensis* by De Haan in 1844 and, having done so, placed this specific name so emended on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*. By some oversight the Commission was not then asked to place the Invalid Original Spelling *nipponensis* De Haan on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*, although the recording on the *Official Index* of a name rejected by the Commission is obligatory under the regulations governing the *Official Indexes*. In order to make good this oversight, I now, as Secretary, hereby

direct that the Invalid Original Spelling *niponensis* De Haan, 1844, be placed on the above *Official Index* at the same time that the emended spelling *nipponensis* is placed on the *Official List* and that the present Direction be embodied in the Ruling to be given in the *Opinion* relating to the present case.

12. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" :

On 15th May 1955, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)49, subject to the formal adjustment specified in the Minute executed by the Secretary earlier on the same day. The text of the Minute here referred to has been reproduced in paragraph 11 of the present *Opinion*.

13. Original References : The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

Conchodytes Peters, 1852, *Ber. Verh. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* **1852** : 588, 591

Hymenocera Latreille, 1819, *Nouv. Dict. Hist. nat.* (ed. 2) **30** : 71

Nematophyllum Bleeker, 1856, *Reis Minahassa Moluksch. Arch.* **2** : 37

niponensis, *Hymenocera*, De Haan, 1844, *Faun. japon.*, Crust. (6/7) : pl. 46

nipponensis, *Hymenocera*, De Haan, 1844, emendation of *niponensis* De Haan, 1844, q.v.

picta, *Hymenocera*, Dana, 1852, *U.S. Explor. Exped.* **13** : 593

tridacnae, *Conchodytes*, Peters, 1852, *Ber. Verh. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* **1852** : 594

14. The following is the reference for the selection of the type species of *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852, specified by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—Hilgendorf, 1879, *Mber. Akad. Wiss. Berlin* **1878** : 835.

15. Family-Group-Name Aspect : The applicant (Dr. Holthuis) has reported to the Office of the Commission that neither the genus

Hymenocera Latreille, 1819, nor the genus *Conchodytes* Peters, 1852, is currently regarded as the type genus of a family-group taxon and therefore that in this case no problem arises in this field.

16. At the time of the submission of the present application the name applicable to the second portion of a binomen was "trivial name". This was altered to "specific name" by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, which at the same time made corresponding changes in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of names of this category. These changes in terminology have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

17. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

18. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Eighty-Three (383) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Fifteenth day of May, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING